

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM  EMERGENCY/HOMELESS SHELTERS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	ISSUED  6/1/02	REVISED  4/09	CHAPTER  1	SECTION  1.2
CHAPTER Chapter 1. Introduction		SUBJECT History – National Level			

Congress established the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) in 1968 to provide meals to children in child care centers, settlement houses, and recreation centers. The program was created in response to the need to provide good nutrition to children in low-income areas where there are large numbers of working mothers.

The CCFP was expanded in 1981 to allow certain adult day care centers to participate and in 1990, the program name was changed to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The CACFP allows public or private, non-profit or for-profit organizations to participate in the program.

Emergency and homeless shelters became eligible to participate in the CACFP with congressional passage of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-336). Effective July 1, 1999, the law recognized the unique mission and financial circumstances of emergency shelters in the program. The goal of the law is to provide year-round access to nutritious, free meals and snacks to children who reside with their families in emergency shelters under the provisions of Section 17(t)(1) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA).

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued guidance on March 30, 1999, stating that to participate in CACFP emergency shelters must either:

- Provide temporary residence to families with children; or
- Sponsor a temporary residential site for children and their parents or guardians.

On March 14, 2000, FNS provided additional guidance clarifying that residential child care institutions (RCCIs) may also participate in the CACFP if they operate a separate program for homeless families with children. A RCCI may participate in CACFP if it serves a distinct group of homeless children who are not enrolled in the RCCI's regular program.

On January 2, 2004, a provision of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 raised the age limit for residents of emergency shelters who are eligible to receive CACFP meals to children through age 18 who are homeless and seeking shelter with or without their families. Persons with disabilities, regardless of their age, also have access to CACFP meals and snacks as residents of a shelter.

Reference: Interim rule in the 1/3/2006 Federal Register